

NOT ENOUGH MEN TO DO THE WORK.

WHY THERE ARE DELAYS IN HANDLING MAIL IN THE POSTOFFICE.

The criticisms of Postmaster Van Cott's administration of his office are usually based on ignorance of the difficulties with which he has to contend. While the postal business here grows enormously, the force of clerks is increased at a snail's pace. Mr. Van Cott cannot be blamed if his men are not able to increase their capacity for work as the volume of mail increases. These figures will show the exact state of affairs:

Number of pieces of mail matter handled in the city department, New-York Postoffice. Year ended December 31, 1891, 260,000; year ended December 31, 1892, 1,041,428; increase, pieces, 340,428. Increase per cent., 13.48. Statement of registered matter handled 1889 and 1892:

1889. 1892. Increase per cent.

Registered pieces delivered by mail and branches 1,345,140 1,501,959 12

Registered pieces received for domestic distribution 1,198,698 1,543,220 22

Registered pieces forwarded for air mail 480,271 825,642 71

Pieces received for publication 106,216 115,907 90

Cases received 30,944 35,111 15

Number of clerks employed 119 115

SALES OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

Year 1888. 1892. Increase 33 per cent.

NUMBER OF CLERKS IN THE CASHIER'S DEPARTMENT.

January 1, 1890. Present time (December 24, 1892). Increase 12 per cent.

The increase of business in the Money Order division in the last four years is shown:

Year 1888. 1889. 1890. Increase of 1890 over 1888.

Domestic money orders 3,183,020 3,611,278 4,127,250 15.4%

Foreign money orders 3,639,900 3,608,647 3,639,900 -0.8%

Total money orders 6,822,920 6,720,025 7,767,150 12.5%

Increase in the number of transactions 1882-1888 18

Increase in the amount of transactions 1882-1888 23

Increase in the number of clerks 1882-1888 3,370

Allowance for each clerk 1882-1888 90.6%

There is a comparison of the amount of mail matter handled in the post office, domestic mailing and distribution department, for November, 1888, and November, 1892. November, 1888, 22,403,615; November, 1892, 40,077,721. Increase, 80.7%.

SUSPENDED FROM THE PRODUCE EXCHANGE.

The Board of Managers of the Produce Exchange yesterday suspended Edwin L. Johnson for failure to carry out a contract with Whitman Brothers, exporters of cottonseed oil. On November 10 Johnson contracted with Whitman Brothers to deliver 1,000 barrels of cottonseed oil at a specified time. He failed to do so, and the price of cottonseed oil had gone up between the time of sale and the date set for delivery, and the 1,000 barrels were worth about \$800 more than they had been sold for.

Mr. Johnson is a member of the New-York Produce Exchange, and that they failed to deliver the oil to him, and if any one was at fault it was the companies.

Whitman Brothers replied that they never heard of any oil companies, and knew Johnson as principal. They sought the case before the committee, which digested against Mr. Johnson, and then it went to the Board of Managers. Mr. Johnson is suspended during the pleasure of the Board. Whitman Brothers are the agents for the Southern Cotton Oil Company, as well as exporters.

RETH VICTIMS OF THE STOVE BURNING.

At the offices of Coffin & Stanton yesterday it was said that Joseph A. Matthews, the artist, and Hunter White, who were nearly killed by gas on Monday night, at the house of Walter Stanton, in Hillside, N. J., were improving and would be soon back, and that he intended a Christmas party at Mr. Stanton's, and the house being crowded, slept together in a room heated by a carbide stove. They were found unconscious in the morning. Mr. White revived soon, but it was many hours before Mr. Matthews recovered consciousness.

The stove was a small contrivance without a simple pipe made to burn a composition called carbide.

The combustion was not perfect, and carbide oxide was formed.

MR. MATTHEWS LIVES AT NO. 125 WEST PINE-STREET.

He is a son of Elias A. Matthews, United States Consul-general at Constantinople.

Mr. Matthews is a member of both the New-York Athletic Club, and Rives No. 104 Cambridge Place, Brooklyn.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE MARKETS.

FEATURES OF THE NEW-YORK DEALINGS.

The sales of wheat futures remained unaltered at 1,270,000 bushels and the market was easy in time throughout the session, except for a slight covering movement which caused a rally of 5¢ a cent around the close. Early prices showed a decline of 5¢ a cent as a result of foreign and Wall Street selling, local realizing and in sympathy with the weakness of the West January market.

There was a slight rally at 126¢ 15 cents, but the market closed lower, and again in sympathy with options. The spot market was very weak, and closed at 126¢ 15 cents.

In corn the option market moved still and closed at a point of 5¢ cent for the day. The spot market was also very weak, and closed at 126¢ 15 cents.

Prices were without material change. Imports took 1,680 bushels.

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